

claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic mail system comprising:

a transmission apparatus including;

first storing means for holding a signature of an electronic mail by associating it with identification information;

identification information reading out means for reading out from said first storing means identification information corresponding to a signature included in an electronic mail to be transmitted;

converting means for converting the signature of said electronic mail to the identification information read out by the identification information reading out means; and

transmitting means for transmitting said electronic mail with its signature part being converted to the identification information by said converting means to its destination; and

a reception apparatus including;

second storing means for holding a signature of an electronic mail by associating it with identification information;

receiving means for receiving an electronic mail transmitted from said transmission apparatus;

signature reading out means for reading out from said

second storing means a signature corresponding to the identification information included in said electronic mail received by said receiving means; and

restoring means for converting the identification information included in the electronic mail to the signature read out by the signature reading out means.

2. An electronic mail system according to claim 1 wherein; said first storing means and said second storing means hold a signature and identification information corresponding to the signature by associating them with a sender's mail address of an electronic mail.

3. An electronic mail system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein;

said transmission apparatus further includes extracting means for, when contents held by said first storing means are renewed, extracting information concerning the renewal as renewal information, and transmits said renewal information; and

said reception apparatus further includes renewing means for, when said receiving means receives said renewal information, renewing contents held by said second storing means in accordance with said renewal information.

4. An electronic mail system according to claim 3 wherein; said transmitting means transmits an electronic mail having renewal information including a signature registered anew in said

first storing means and identification information allocated to this signature, and said renewing means renews contents held by said second storing means in accordance with said renewal information included in said electronic mail received by said receiving means.

5. An electronic mail system according to claim 4 wherein; said electronic mail is an electronic mail for renewing the contents of said second storing means.

6. An electronic mail system according to claim 4 wherein; said electronic mail is an electronic mail with a signature registered anew in said first storing means and identification information corresponding to the signature being added to an electronic mail to be transmitted to said reception apparatus.

7. A transmission apparatus of an electronic mail comprising:

storing means for holding a signature of an electronic mail by associating it with identification information;

identification information reading out means for reading out from said storing means identification information corresponding to a signature included in an electronic mail to be transmitted;

converting means for converting the signature of said electronic mail to the identification information read out by the identification information reading out means; and

transmitting means for transmitting said electronic mail

with its signature part being converted to the identification information by said converting means to its destination.

8. A reception apparatus of an electronic mail comprising:
storing means for holding a signature of an electronic mail by associating it with identification information;

receiving means for receiving an electronic mail transmitted by said transmission apparatus;

signature reading out means for, if identification information of a signature is included in said electronic mail received by said receiving means, reading out a signature corresponding to the identification information from said storing means; and

restoring means for converting the identification information included in said electronic mail to the signature read out by said signature reading out means.